

House Sets Stage for State of the Union with Vote to Cut Spending

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) today voted to pass legislation that would save taxpayers \$60 billion by reducing non-security spending to 2008 levels or less for the remainder of fiscal year 2011. Rooney said the House vote sets the stage for tonight's State of the Union address, in which the President is expected to call for new spending in some areas while acknowledging the need to cut deficits.

"Today, the House of Representatives put forward another concrete solution to cut spending and get deficits under control," Rooney said. "By returning to pre-bailout, pre-stimulus spending levels for the rest of this fiscal year, we can save \$60 billion and take a big step toward ending the federal government spending spree of the last two years.

"I hope that in tonight's State of the Union address, President Obama will not only acknowledge the need to address our skyrocketing national debt, but will actually offer specific proposals to cut spending and reduce deficits.

"The American people sent a loud and clear message on November 2 that they want the federal government to cut spending significantly and immediately. In his speech tonight, I hope President Obama will make clear that he heard that message, and he's ready to work with the Republican majority to cut spending and move our country forward."

Rooney noted that in addition to today's vote to save \$60 billion, the House has already voted to cut its own budget by five percent, saving \$35 million a year immediately; repeal the costly health care bill, which would save \$2.6 trillion; and eliminate wasteful and unnecessary spending at the Government Printing Office, which would save millions more. Tomorrow, the House plans to vote on legislation to save \$520 million by ending taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions.

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